02/27/2008

Dear Members of the Labor Committee,

I am a Judicial Marshal that has worked as a Special Deputy Sheriff. I'm asking you for your support on House Bill 5106. This bill would give me and other Judicial Marshals the opportunity to purchase past pension time that should have been afforded to us long ago.

Brief History & Timeline:

- On April 9, 1990 the IRS ruled that Special Deputy Sheriffs were employees rather than classified as vendors.
- In November, 1991 a petition for representation was filed with the Connecticut State Labor Relations Board (the Labor Board) by the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO (the Union), seeking to represent the following unit within the terms of the Act Concerning Collective Bargaining for State Employees, Connecticut General Statutes 5-275 et seq.
 - Special Deputy Sheriffs working in Fairfield County as Bailiffs,
 Transportation Officers and in Lockup Areas who work a minimum of three shifts per week, up to and including the rank of lieutenant.
- After the requisite preliminary administrative steps, the matter came before the Labor Board at a hearing on February 7, 1992. The parties agreed that only one question would be presented to the Board at this stage; namely whether the Special Deputy Sheriff's were "employees." Other issues would be addressed in later proceedings if necessary. Both the Union and the State appeared and were represented by council. They both had a full opportunity to present evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses and make arguments. Both parties filed briefs, the last of which was received on March 18, 1992.
- In May 29, 1992 Public Act No. 92-61 amended 6-43 of the Connecticut General Statutes by adding the provision that "Special Deputy Sheriffs shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapters 66 to 68, inclusive. The provision was effective upon passage.
- September 30, 1992 The State Labor Board ruled that the petition be dismissed, because of the passage of Public Act 92-61.

We the Special Deputy Sheriffs exercised our right to unionize. As soon as we tried to exercise that right, they took it away. PA 92-61 should never have been passed.

Please give us the chance to change what should have never passed. Please support HB 5106 and let us Judicial Marshals, who worked as Special Deputy Sheriffs, the opportunity to purchase past pension time. This would at least make this long chapter of violating rights that we originally had which was to Unionize like every other State

Employee of this great State. If those rights were never wrongly taken in the first place, we would not be in this position. I'm asking you as a representative of Connecticut to do the right thing and give us back what was wrongly taken from us. Please provide us the chance to purchase this hard carned pension time.

Please support House Bill 5106.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson
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